

Message Text

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EXDIS- DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E. O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CHILE PROJECTS OPTIMISM ON US TALKS

TALKS WITH POLITICALLY ACTIVE CHILEANS AND PRESS LEAKS LEAD OUR EMBASSY TO CONCLUDE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE (GOC) IS CREATING AN AIR OF OPTIMISM OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF EARLY AGREEMENT WITH THE US ON COMPENSATION AND RELATED ISSUES. THE GOC EFFORTS MAY BE DUE TO GENERAL PRATS' PRESSURE FOR ACCOMMODATION WITH US, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT ALLENDE' S INTEREST IN AN " OPENING " TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. (SECRET) SANTIAGO 1154, 3/20 (EXDIS).

2. IRAQIS HIT KUWAIT BORDER POST

ON MARCH 20 IRAQI FORCES FIRED ON A KUWAITI BORDER POST KILLING AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS OF THE POLICE GARRISON
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EMBASSY KUWAIT REPORTS. ALTHOUGH GENERAL MOBILIZATION OF THE KUWAITI ARMED FORCES HAS BEEN ORDERED, OUR EMBASSY ESTIMATES THERE WILL BE NO SERIOUS MILITARY

ESCALATION. KUWAIT HAS INITIATED DIPLOMATIC MOVES TO RESOLVE THE BORDER DISPUTE WHICH PRECIPITATED THE ATTACK. (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT 872, 873 AND 886, 3/20.

3. SC MEETING MAY END WITH A WHIMPER

THE SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) HAS KILLED THE IDEA OF A CONSENSUS DECLARATION, AND WILL END ITS MEETING WITH A STATEMENT BY SC PRESIDENT BOYD OF PANAMA. ALTHOUGH BOYD WAS GIVEN A MANDATE FOR HIS UNILATERAL STATEMENT, OUR DELEGATION WILL WAIT TO SEE IF THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS SPEECH REQUIRES A US REJOINDER. (CONFIDENTIAL) PANAMA 1535, 3/21.

4. SOUTH VIETNAM MILITARY UNHAPPY WITH CEASE- FIRE

OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN BIEN HOA REPORTS HIGH- RANKING OFFICERS IN MILITARY REGION III FEEL THAT THE CEASE- FIRE HAS FAILED OR IS ABOUT TO. SOME BELIEVE NEITHER SIDE WANTS PEACE, AND THAT THE WAR WILL RESUME WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN. (CONFIDENTIAL) BIEN HOA 24, 3/20.

5. INDOCHINA OPERATIONS

NINETEEN MAJOR CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED IN SOUTH VIETNAM DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 1900 EST 20 MARCH. GROUND ACTIVITY IN CAMBODIA WAS FOCUSED BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND KAMPONG THOM TO THE NORTH.

AIR OPERATIONS

IN CAMBODIAN AIR OPERATIONS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, 191 US ATTACK AND GUNSHIP SORTIES WERE FLOWN. B-52 OPERATIONS CONSISTED OF 60 SORTIES AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF SNOUL, AND SOUTHEAST, SOUTH, AND SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. NMCC OPSUM (SECRET) 3/21.

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